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# STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

## Hair-raising challenge

# Salons, beauty parlours open

Mysuru, May 20 (MTY&BCT)- Thanks to COVID-19 pandemic, people now are taking all possible measures to not come in contact with the infection. While in offices anyone with a flu or cold is being asked to maintain a distance or go home, there's an industry that is finding it tough to keep their hands off their customers, literally. And they are constantly running the risk of contraction.

The hair cutting salon and beauty industry works in close contact with customers, and now, beauty parlours and hair dressing salons are taking measures to ensure the spaces are sanitised. They are also ensuring that clients with the slightest cold or flu are not entertained.

After 56 days, salons and beauty parlours in Mysuru opened up for business this morning and there are over 2,300 hair cutting salons in Mysuru district and over 800 beauty parlours including the ones that operate from homes. Over 9,000 people are dependent on this industry.

Though the State Government on May 18 allowed salons and parlours to open from May 19 (Tuesday), none of the parlours opened yesterday as cutting hair on Tuesdays is considered inauspicious. The salons opened today with a lot of restrictions.

Barbers and hairdressers were seen serving customers while wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Specific instructions have been given to salons about the hygiene and sanitisation norms which they have to follow strictly while operating.

Those involved in the business of beauty will wear full PPE kits and gloves. Besides sanitisation process, norms on social distancing also have to be followed. Staff and customer capacity has been asked to keep low and in a place where six people can sit, only two are permitted.

Masks are compulsory for both hairdressers and customers and customers are being asked to carry their own towels. Staff must wear head covers and aprons. Salon staff have been asked to use clean scissors, comb and other beauty products and equipment. Sanitisation is a must for both customers and salon staff and they have been asked to avoid shaving and spraying water on customers' faces.

"We are not taking appointments from people who are inquiring whether they can avail services while suffering from cold, cough or flu. If a staff member is feeling unwell, they are being asked to stay at home. It is not just for our safety, but also the safety of other clients," Mysuru Savitha Samaja President Nagesh told *Star of Mysore*.

(See SALONS on page 8)

# COVID-19 impact: Only 50 guests for weddings

### 17-point advisory by Department of Health and Family Welfare Services prohibits liquor too

[Related stories on Page-4 & 5]

Bengaluru, May 20- Karnataka's Department of Health and Family Welfare Services has issued an advisory for marriages, stating that not more than 50 guests shall be allowed and the consumption of liquor on the occasion will be prohibited.

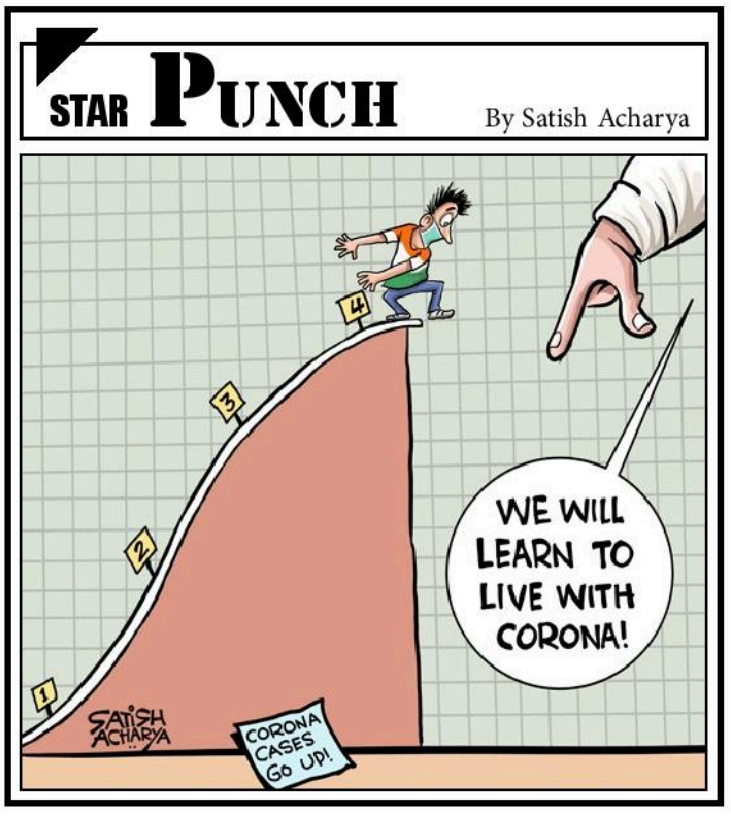
In the 17-point advisory, the Department has stated that necessary prior permission for the event and travel passes shall be obtained from the competent local authorities. Besides liquor, consumption of paan, gutkha, tobacco, etc., is also not allowed, and spitting at public places is prohibited.

"The marriage event shall allow a maximum number of not more than 50 guests. The event shall be conducted at a suitable public place with good natural ventilation (no air condition). Persons from Containment Zones shall not be allowed to attend the event. Persons more than 65 years of age, pregnant women and children below 10 years are not permitted to attend the events," the advisory reads.

According to the advisory, sanitisers should be provided at the entry and other appropriate places at the venue. Also, thermal screening of all persons shall be conducted at the entry of the venue. The scanner should be held 3-15 centimetres away from a person's forehead.

As per the advisory, anyone found having fever, cold, cough, difficulty in breathing shall not be permitted to attend the event and immediately referred to seek medical advice.

(See GUESTS on page 8)



**In this week's Pet Talk,**
**Maneka talks about the minimum duration a kitten has to stay with its mother and what happens if separated too soon.**

# Pet Talk

Maneka Gandhi

***How long should a kitten stay with its mother?***

Mother cats will typically start to wean their kittens off their milk at one month of age. This does not mean that kittens can be adopted. The weaning process usually continues for about another month until the kittens are fully weaned between eight and 10 weeks of age. During this time, the kittens will still occasionally nurse on their mother, but they will also start to eat liquid kitten food. The liquid kitten food should gradually get thicker until it is a watered-down canned kitten food or a moistened kitten kibble. Over the four to six week weaning period, the kitten will consume less and less milk from its mother. Getting a kitten used to eating dry food can take some time, so it should not be forced or rushed. Kittens should be kept with the mother at least until the age of 8 weeks and ideally until they're about 12 weeks old.

***What happens when a kitten is removed from its mother too soon?***

If a kitten is taken from its mother and sent to a new home too soon, there can be some serious health consequences. The first few weeks of a kitten's life are essential for its health and body development. The nutrients in the mother's milk are responsible for strong bone development, eye health, and full organ development, so if a kitten is weaned too soon, you could be increasing the risk of your cat developing more health issues later on. A kitten removed from its mother too soon may need nutritional supplementation and other veterinary care. Kittens who left their mothers too soon may have trouble grooming themselves, not know how to bury their waste in the litter box, play too rough, not know how to hunt for food, or have other behavioural problems. A kitten that is removed from its mother too soon may also have trouble adjusting to its new home and you.

***Why does a cat carry its kitten by the neck?***

Scruffing is a general term for a variety of holds on the skin of the cat's neck. Mother cats grab kittens by their scruff only in the first few weeks of life to transport them. They do not do this to discipline them. It's important to remember that we, as humans, are not cats: A mother cat knows the precise pressure to place on the skin at the back of the neck and cats have pressure sensors on their teeth, which explains why they can carry a mouse in their mouths without making a scratch. Cats are only grabbed by the scruff of their neck in limited circumstances: by their mother during the first few weeks of life, during mating, during fighting, and when they are

being attacked by a predator.

***Can a cat give birth to different colour kittens?***

Yes. Kittens can have widely varying coat colours. All it takes are certain combinations of the parents' base colours and/or a few recessive genes.

***Why do male cats kill the kittens after they are born?***

Male cats have been known to kill kittens, usually kittens that they didn't father. This behaviour is a throwback to instincts from wilder days when killing a rival's young would keep the rival from spreading his genes about the countryside and giving the killer a better chance of advancing his own genetic agenda.

***Is it normal for male cats to take care of kittens?***

Not all male cats kill kittens and some have even been known to participate a little in caring for their own young by cleaning and playing with them. People have even reported having their tom cats turn up with litters of kittens in tow, as if to inform their humans that they were living up to the responsibilities of fatherhood.

***Why does my cat hunt if he is well-fed at home?***

Your cat's motivation to hunt is not influenced by whether or not he is hungry. The only thing that might change is the intensity and duration of the hunting; cats that are not hungry will still catch prey but may not kill or eat it.

***At what age do cats stop having kittens?***

Cats don't stop having kittens. Cats go on heat till the end of their lives. However, old cats have fewer heats so the chances of mating and reproducing lessen.

***Why does my cat hunt?***

All cats are hunters, and this applies to your cat too, even if they are kept indoors or they choose not to go outside very often. Your cat's motivation to pounce on small things that move is always there, so providing them with plenty of opportunity for 'predatory play', rather than the real thing, can help fulfill this natural instinct as well as helping them keep mentally and physically fit and healthy.

***Is it normal for my cats not to meow?***

If a normally vocal cat suddenly falls quiet for extended periods of time, some concern might be warranted. Especially if your pet seems lethargic or depressed. If your pet has always been on the quiet side but otherwise seems happy and healthy, then it's probably the cat's nature and is perfectly normal. Cat vocalisation also tends to be breed-specific. Siamese cats are notoriously loud and harsh in their plentiful meows, while a Birman is quiet by nature. When a loud breed suddenly falls quiet, it's more likely to be cause for concern.

Cats usually aren't very vocal with each other, except for a female cat and her kittens. Many scientists believe that house cats verbalise with their humans in the same way that they do with their kittens. Meowing directed at humans is a trait of domestication and a way for cats to communicate with their owners. Because adult cats don't meow at each other, it's not uncommon for your cat to gradually get quieter as it ages. This is not something you need to worry about.

**To join the animal welfare movement contact**
**gandhim@nic.in**
***www.peopleforanimalsindia.org***

**PFA HELPLINE**

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DOGS, PUPPIES, CATS, KITTENS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION [Contact: Ph: 0821-2598213]
Timings: 8 am to 8 pm

**SEND YOUR QUESTIONS**

Readers with queries about their pets health, care and behavioural issues may send their questions to *SOM* : *voice@starofmysore.com*

# Coronavirus cases mount to 1,458 in Karnataka

## With 168 cases, Mandya stands second in State, after Bengaluru Urban that has 250 positive cases

Bengaluru, May 20 (UNI)- With 63 fresh COVID-19 cases being reported, the total number of people infected from the disease rose to 1,458 in the State till 2 pm today (Wednesday).

According to official sources, in Hassan district 21 persons tested positive, followed by 10 in Bidar, Mandya (08), Bengaluru Urban (04), Kalaburagi (07), Udupi (06), Tumakuru (04), Yadagiri, Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada one case each.

Sources said this morning, ten people were discharged from the hospital, taking the number of those who had cured from the pandemic to 553. So far, as many as 40 people, who had contracted the dreaded disease, lost their lives in the State.

**71 cases in one day:** Mandya district recorded the highest number of COVID cases yesterday as a total of 71 people tested positive for the virus including 38 male and 33 female. All have a travel history to Mumbai, Maharashtra.

With 168 cases, Mandya is in the second position in the State, after Bengaluru Urban that has 250 positives. Of the 71 cases reported yesterday in Mandya, seven are children aged below 10 years (five boys and two girls including a boy and girl aged one year), three are 12-year-old children (a boy and two girls), one 13-year-old girl, two 15-year-old children (a boy and a girl), two 16-year-old girls, a 17-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl, 25 women and 29 men, said the Mandya district administration sources. They left Maharashtra with several dozens of others in private vehicles and reached Mandya after May 15. They were placed under quarantine as per the protocol and their samples had been tested, said Mandya Deputy Commissioner M.V. Venkatesh.

**K.R. Pet and Nagamangala worst affected:** The Maharashtra link has turned into a headache as thousands of migrants are entering Mandya every day. Most of the migrants are returning to K.R. Pet and Nagamangala taluks. The district administration has made all arrangements to shift the migrants to quarantine facility directly from the check-posts as a precautionary measure. They are being subject to COVID tests and the number of positive cases has been rising since the last week.

Not only this, the sudden spurt is also attributed to the entry of migrants to Mandya through interior roads. K.R. Pet and Nagamangala have many such roads and officials admit that there are gaps in surveillance as there is a huge mismatch between the number who have registered on Seva Sindhu portal for entry into Mandya district and those who have actually entered.

**Woman dies:** A 55-year-old woman died of cardiac arrest at a quarantine centre in Morarji Desai Residential School at Somanahalli of Nagamangala last night. She had returned from Mumbai on May 17 and was placed under quarantine.

The deceased, a native of Juttanahalli of Nagamangala taluk, had been staying in Mumbai with her family for the past several years. The report of her swab samples is awaited, said officials.

## VOICE OF THE READER

# Indeed, a laudable gesture by Yuva Brigade team

Sir,

Through this column, I extend my appreciation to the local Yuva Brigade team for their silent social service in the temple town. Recently I read a news report that a big banyan tree uprooted on the Nanjangud-Chamarajanagar Road while widening the stretch was moved safely and replanted by the team on Kapila River bank near the temple; took care by regular watering and ensured that the tree sprouts again.

Kudos to them. Besides, they are trained snake-catchers too, who respond to any calls if and when the reptile is spotted in residential houses, catch them safe and leave them free in the wild, in return for nothing. This kind of selfless service is unheard of nowadays and is really appreciable.

I personally experienced this when a snake was spotted in my kitchen at midnight (around 1.30 am). Though unwilling to disturb at that late hour but left with no other choice, I half-heartedly rang one of them, who was kind enough to reach me in the next 15 minutes and took it away safely. Had it not been for him, we all would have to spend the whole night outside. I profusely thank the team for the laudable gesture and eco-friendly attitude.

**— N. Devarajan**
**on e-mail**

Nanjangud
13.5.2020

# SSLC exam Time-Table

Though the exams are scheduled to begin at 10.30 am, students must come an hour early for the exam centre, as they have to undergo thermal scanning and sanitise their hands," said a communication from the KSEEB.

Bengaluru, May 20- The Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) has released the schedule for the pending Board exams. SSLC exams will be held from June 25 to July 4.

As many as 8,48,192 students have registered for the same. For second-year PUC or Class 12, only English language exam was left. It will be held on June 18, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar said on Monday.

The exams, whenever conducted, will be held amid hygiene and security measures. Use of masks, sanitisers will be mandatory and arrangements will be made to check students through thermal scanners, the Minister had informed earlier. Reportedly, 43,720 rooms in 2,879 buildings across the State have been set-up to conduct the SSLC exam.

**Time-Table 2020**

**June 25:** Second Language (English/ Kannada)

**June 26:** Elements of Mechanical Engineering, Elements of Electrical Engineering-2, Engineering Graphics-2, Elements of Computer Science, Economics

**June 27:** Mathematics, Sociology

**June 29:** Science, Political Science, Karnatak or Hindustani Music

**July 1:** Social Science

**July 2:** First Language (Kannada/ Telugu/ Hindi/ Marathi/ Tamil/ Urdu/ English/ Sanskrit)

**July 3:** Third Language (Hindi/ Kannada/ English/ Arabic/ Persian/ Urdu/ Sanksrit/ Konkani/ Tulu), NSQF subjects.

# Obituary

**H.V. Purushotham**

Mysuru, May 20 – H.V. Purushotham (64), retired Station Master and a resident of Ittigegud,

passed away this morning in city.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, daughter-in-law and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this evening, according to family sources.

**S.K. Ramachandra**

**Mandya:** S.K. Ramachandra (62), a retired employee of the Sericulture Department, passed

away yesterday in Mandya city. He leaves behind his wife Pushpalatha, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Shettihalli village in Channapatna taluk today, according to family sources.

# MCCI adopts 'No Mask - No Business' policy

## Industries to impart skill training to locals and employ them to fill the vacuum created by exodus of migrant workers

*Former MCCI and FKCCI President Sudhakar S. Shetty addressing a press meet in city on Monday as MCCI President A.S. Satish and Mysuru Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda look on.*

Mysuru, May 20 - With the Government easing lockdown curbs allowing industries to function, the Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has decided to adopt 'No Mask - No Business' policy in order to ensure safety and health of the people in the wake of Novel Coronavirus pandemic.

Announcing this at a press meet at MCCI Office on D. Devaraj Urs Road here on Monday, former MCCI and FKCCI President Sudhakar S. Shetty said that the MCCI is determined to fight the deadly virus and has joined hands with the District Administration in making Mysuru COVID-19 free.

Pointing out that it was important for people to join hands in the battle against the pandemic, he said that the MCCI members have resolved not to do business with people not following the COVID lockdown regulations.

Noting that Mysuru, which had recorded 90 positive cases in the beginning of the outbreak, has now become free of the pandemic because of the untiring efforts of the District Administration, he said that the MCCI has come up with certain guidelines that will promote 'Swachha Mysuru – Swastha Mysuru' in line with the city's earlier tag of 'Cleanest City' and 'Healthcare Hub fame.'

Stating that all Industrialists, Businessmen and Entrepreneurs in the district must follow COVID-19 Government guidelines and should compulsorily wear face mask at work and public places, he said that businessmen should not tolerate customers without face masks and must strictly adopt 'No Mask - No Business' policy.

Sudhakar Shetty further said that business establishment owners must ensure social distancing at work places and all persons visiting them must be thermally screened before entering the offices.

Maintaining that sanitiser hand wash is compulsory for all people entering business establishments, he urged the shopkeepers to maintain hygiene and cleanliness in their vicinity.

Asserting that it is inevitable to follow the lockdown rules and regulations without fail for the sake of public safety, he observed that with collective efforts, it is possible to contain the spread of the virus.

Referring to the return of migrant workers to their home States, Shetty said that there were about 25,000 migrants working in different industries of the district. "The return of migrant workers to their home States will naturally have an impact on industrial production in the district. A fortnight ago, most of the migrant workers wanted to return to their native places. But now, several of them seem to have changed their mind on returning, which is some good sign for the industry. Meanwhile, industries are also planning to impart skill training to locals and employ them to fill the vacuum created by the exodus of migrant workers," he pointed out.

MCCI President A.S. Satish and Mysuru Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda were present.

# DC relaxes lockdown norms in Nanjangud

## Basavanapura and Tandavapura no longer Containment Zones

Nanjangud, May 20 (SBD & KS)- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar yesterday issued an order relaxing the lockdown norms in Nanjangud, which had reported the highest number of COVID-19 positive cases in the district besides clearing Basavanapura and Tandavapura villages from Containment Zones.

Nanjangud was declared as 'Cluster Containment Zone' and following May 14 order, only shops selling essential commodities were allowed to operate and permission was given to the movement of labourers and vehicles of residents. But most of the lockdown rules were in force.

Now, following a request from Chamarajanagar DC Dr. M.R. Ravi, commercial activities and movement of inter-district traffic which was earlier prohibited, have been relaxed a bit and permission for a few commercial activities has been given.

Movement of goods vehicles, KSRTC buses, Government vehicles, ambulance and other vehicles transporting essential commodities have been permitted on Chamarajanagar-Nanjangud-Mysuru and Gundlupet-Nanjangud-Mysuru routes. But movement of private vehicles especially inter-State vehicles on Nanjangud route is not permitted. Permission is also given to movement of autos, taxis and maxi cabs with certain rules to be followed. Salons and other shops have been permitted to conduct business from 7 am to 5 pm. Theatres, malls, gymnasiums and stadiums will remain closed.

The DC has also cleared Basavanapura in Chikkaiahnachatra hobli and Tandavapura in the taluk from Containment Zones. As COVID-19 positive cases were confirmed on Apr. 21, the two villages were declared as Containment and Buffer Zones and restrictions were imposed. As no new cases have been confirmed, the DC has taken back the earlier lockdown order.

# From big fat to short and simple wedding

## Will 'at home marriages' be the in-thing henceforth?

*Kunchettira Jayanth Subbaiah and K. Prajna.*

*Ranjitha and Sreenidhi.*

*Karthamada Sunil and Nayakanda Sona.*

Mysuru, May 20 (BCT)- Novel Coronavirus crisis has felled many. And the 'big fat Indian wedding' is surely one among them. Thousands gather for dazzling multi-day weddings which are fun, lavish and it fuels a massive industry. Thanks to a Coronavirus-affected world, these weddings are seen now as virus-super-spreader events and many stay away from them.

So, the weddings adopted to a new normal — simple and a small affair with limited guests. While many couples have taken the easy way out and postponed their weddings hoping for better days, many weddings are conducted as spartan affairs with just the couple and their immediate families. And instead of choultries, such ceremonies are held at homes.

**Weddings at homes**

The couple, their parents, a few relatives and some close friends can be in attendance at homes and it is possible to do a simple wedding with just 50 or so people as per the Government guidelines. At such a spartan wedding, all guests can wear masks and gloves and social distancing could be maintained at all times, and food could be served carefully to prevent any congestion at the tables.

This is the way weddings are happening in Kodagu district and in Mysuru for the past one month during lockdown which also covered a peak marriage season. Numbers of small marriage cermonies that have taken place in the districts suggest that more and more people are liking it.

Kunchettira Jayanth Subbaiah, an Officer in the Indian Navy at Karwar, was to get married to K. Prajna at Napoklu Kodava Samaja on May 9 and 10 and had invited over 2,000 guests for a grand ceremony. But due to COVID lockdown, the family elders decided to conduct the wedding in their house and only 20 to 25 close relatives were invited. Social distancing was strictly followed at the small event.

**Small but traditional**

Theetharamada Gagan Appaiah got married to Kuttanda Kavery (Kirthana) in a simple ceremony on May 6 at their homes in a traditional Kodava 'single muhurtha' ceremony. Their wedding was originally planned on Apr. 29 at Palm Valley near Gonikoppal and due to lockdown, the family decided to keep it a small affair.

Gagan's father Vijay told *Star of Mysore* that only 20 to 25 close relatives participated in the wedding. "Both of our families were comfortable with the small ceremony. But we made sure that all the Kodava traditions were followed and we were happy for our children. It was a simple but traditional ceremony and I am planning a similar ceremony for my younger son Ben Aiyappa," he said.

Ranjitha and Sreenidhi were to get married on Apr. 29 and 30 and they had booked a Choultry in Mysuru after paying Rs. 90,000 advance. Due to lockdown, both the families decided to perform the wedding at the bride's home in city. They got married on Apr. 30 at a simple ceremony and only 20 close relatives were in attendance.

**No lavish affair**

Nayakanda Sona married Karthamada Sunil in a traditional ceremony at one of their elders' home and over 50 guests participated. Both the traditional Kodava Oorkuduva ceremony and the Dampathi Muhurtha were held at home and all the traditions were followed.

Sanjith, a resident of Mysuru, planned a lavish wedding on May 3 at a reputed Choultry on the Ring Road in Mysuru and had paid an advance of Rs. 1.25 lakh. "Due to lockdown, our families decided to hold the wedding in the first week of June. It will be a small ceremony at home and only close relatives will be invited," Sanjith said.

**Lockdown-forced move**

Commenting on many people catching up with a trend of simple weddings at their homes, former President of Mysore Kodava Samaja Moovera K. Kuttappa told *SOM* that it is a lockdown-forced move. "Once the lockdown is lifted, things will be normal," he said. "Earlier, all weddings in Kodagu were held at homes and Ain Manes (traditional Kodava ancestral home). Later, we shifted to Kodava Samajas. Now due to lockdown, we are back to home weddings. I am happy that all Kodava traditions are followed. But if you take a larger picture, it is a loss to the Kodava Samajas who have properties, marriage halls and staff to maintain. If weddings are held at Samajas, there will be revenues to support Kodava institutions. If not, it is a loss," he pointed out.

"Marriages during lockdown are very slim affairs and may not find traction in the society. But we believe a trend has been set to reduce marriages to a one-day affair instead of two days. 100 guests are acceptable from either side and a marriage banquet for 200 people is much more manageable than one for 1,000," said one of the office-bearers of Ponnampet Kodava Samaja.

*Theetharamada Gagan Appaiah and Kuttanda Kavery.*

## From now on, call MCC Control Room for COVID-19 related issues

Mysuru, May 20- With the city returning to near normal, the MCC has asked people to call the MCC Control Room from now on for COVID-19 related issues, instead of calling 'Asare' Helpline which it had set up following the enforcement of COVID-19 lockdown in March in order to deliver ration and grocery kits to the poor and the needy.

Now, the members of the public can call MCC Control Room for any Corona related issues or other civic issues on Ph:0821-2418800/2418816/2440890 or Mob: 9449841195/9449841196.

# Choultries refuse to refund advance money

## Aggrieved parties can approach Consumer Courts, say Consumer Rights activists

Mysuru, May 20 (BCT)- The Government had banned weddings during the lockdown and now even during the relaxation period, it has imposed many restrictions to make the ceremonies short and simple. But what happens to the advance money paid to Choultries or marriage halls in case the weddings are cancelled or if the families decide to conduct the weddings at homes?

Families of couples who had booked Choultries have complained to *Star of Mysore* that some Choultry owners and managements are refusing to refund the advance money. In normal days, if a family has to book a Choultry, they have to pay an advance that ranges from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 1.50 lakh depending on the Choultry popularity.

Sanjith, a resident of Kuvempunagar in city, told *Star of Mysore* that his wedding was fixed on May 3 and was postponed due to lockdown. "We had booked a Choultry on the Ring Road by paying an advance of Rs. 1.25 lakh. Since we are going ahead with a simple marriage, we decided to cancel the booking and contacted the manager and the Choultry owner for return of advance but they refused," he said. When insisted, the Choultry owner curtly told Sanjith's family to either get married at the same venue at a later date or find another couple who are willing to get married in the Choultry and pay an advance of Rs. 1.25 lakh so that Sanjith can get back his money.

**Police must intervene**

"This is ridiculous. And the Choultry owner told us that it will be a loss to them if they refund the money. Well, COVID-19 is not our fault and we all have suffered. Every month, at least 15 to 18 weddings are held at that particular Choultry," Sanjith said, urging the District Administration and the Police to intervene.

Jayakumar, another parent and a resident of Ramakrishnanagar, who had booked a Choultry for his daughter's wedding, too faced this problem. "The Choultry management flatly refused to refund the money though the wedding at the hall was cancelled and we performed the rituals at our home with 20 people," he said.

**Consumer Court option**

Marriage venues have to be booked well in advance and in case the weddings are cancelled, the Choultry owners have to refund the money. After all, the bookings have been cancelled on account of certain unavoidable circumstances and the aggrieved parties have every right to approach the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums, say Consumer Rights activists.

"People who have paid the advance must send the Choultry owner a formal letter in registered post asking for the refund of the money. If he refuses, people can lodge a complaint in the Consumer Forum along with the advance payment receipt and a copy of the letter and registered post acknowledgement. These Courts have resolved many such cases and have directed full refund," said Advocate V.R. Raghunathan, who specialises in Consumer Court cases.

# Owners say they have suffered huge losses

## 'Ready to pay 50 percent of the advance money'

Mysuru, May 20 (RK,RKB & BCT)- While people who have booked Choultries (Kalyana Mantapas) by paying advance amount are crying hoarse that the Choultry managements are refusing to refund the money in full, managements of such Choultries have a different story to narrate. "We have suffered huge losses and we are not in a position to refund the money," they said.

There are over 85 Choultries in Mysuru with 60 of them located within the city limits and March, April, May is the wedding season and this year, lockdown has hit their business. "We have to pay property tax to the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) every year that comes up to Rs. 6 lakh and we have made an investment in the Choultry up to Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 6 crore. Salaries for employees and workers, security guards, water tax, maintenance, electricity, GST, Income Tax and bank loan instalments all come up to huge expenditure. Where shall we go to fulfil all these," asked K.R. Sathyanarayana, President of Mysuru Kalyana Mantapa Owners Association.

Due to lockdown, 60 percent of the people who had planned weddings in March, April and May have cancelled the functions and have performed small ceremonies at their homes. "They are asking for full refund of the money and a few of them have even approached Police Stations lodging complaints against us seeking full refund. Apart from losses, we have to run around to Police Stations," he rued.

*K.R. Sathyanarayana, President, Mysuru Kalyana Mantapa Owners Association.*

Sathyanarayana said that an appeal has been made to the Mysuru Deputy Commissioner and the District Minister to ask all the Choultry owners to refund only 50 percent of the advance amount if the weddings are cancelled. "We have also appealed to the Government to pass an order so that half the amount of the advance money is refunded to the people on humanitarian grounds. We are not in a position to refund the full amount," Sathyanarayana clarified.

# Vittala Rukmini Convention Hall Trust refunds full money to 22 wedding parties

## 'Unfair to deny advance money for an event that has been cancelled due to COVID'

Mysuru, May 20 (RKB&BCT)- The Trustees of Vittala Rukmini Convention Hall Trust have set a model to all Choultries in Mysuru by refunding the full advance amount for all the weddings that have been cancelled.

Twenty-two weddings had been booked between March 16 and June 18 and all the people were personally called by the Choultry management and refund cheques have been given to them, said Ramesh Najare, Trustee of Vittala Rukmini Convention Hall.

"COVID-19 is a global pandemic and our customers have no fault in this. As it is not right to hold back the advance amount, we have returned the money in full without even cutting a single rupee. Denying refund for a marriage that has not been conducted in a particular Choultry is grave injustice to customers," Ramesh told *Star of Mysore*.

Trust President Jayaram Lalige said that the pandemic has affected all the businesses and the customers have no fault in this. "It is their hard-earned money and it is not right for us to deny the refund. We took a decision in the Trust and refunded the entire amount to all wedding parties. Many customers who have got their money back have appreciated our humanitarian gesture," he added.

**Customers praise move**

*Star of Mysore* called up a couple of customers who had booked Vittala Rukmini Convention Hall and they were thankful to the Trust for returning the money. "We had booked the Choultry for Mar. 16 and 17 and we have postponed the wedding due to COVID-19. We thank the Choultry Trust for refunding the entire Rs. 50,000 taken as advance," said Gangadhar, a medical store owner in Vijayanagar.

Bilikere Eeranayka too got his advance money of Rs. 50,000 back for the wedding he had planned on May 14. H.D. Krishna had booked the Vittala Rukmini Convention Hall for a wedding on May 15. "We were forced to conduct wedding in a small way in a temple. As the wedding was not held at this Choultry, the management called me and gave a full refund of Rs. 60,000 advance amount," said Krishna, a private vehicle driver at Sharadadevinagar.

# 'Waive taxes this year and reduce next year'

## Kalyana Mantapa Owners Association submits memorandum to MCC Commissioner

Mysuru, May 20 (RKB&BCT)- The Mysuru Kalyana Mantapa Owners Association has urged the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to waive property tax and trade licence fee to all Choultries as there is a severe business loss due to global pandemic of COVID-19. In a memorandum submitted to MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde this morning, Association President K.R. Sathyanarayana and Mysuru Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda have said that due to the restrictions, Choultries will be out of business for the next six months and during the marriage season too, no weddings were held.

Considering these factors, the MCC must waive annual taxes on Choultries and also provide a waiver in trade licence fee. The complete waiver must be for this financial year and next year, the MCC must reduce the taxes and licence fee, the Association has urged, pointing out the Choultry expenses including taxes, GST, maintenance charges, bank loans, salaries and other expenditure.

As the Government has imposed restrictions saying that not more than 50 people can attend the weddings, the Choultries will lose business. "We urge you to permit at least 400 to 500 people per wedding and discuss the issue with the Government," the Association has urged.

# Operation Tiger: Two big cats captured in Mysuru and Kodagu

## The felines had created havoc in villages bordering Bandipur and South Kodagu coffee estates

Gundlupet, May 20 (SOMG, KS&BCT) - Residents of villages bordering Bandipur Tiger Reserve and certain areas of coffee plantations in South Kodagu have heaved a sigh of relief today as two tigers that had created havoc by raiding human territories and killing cattle heads were captured yesterday by the Forest Department in separate operations.

While the elusive four-year-old tiger near Bandipur was captured near Kundakere with the help of tamed elephants, another tiger was captured at Srimangala in South Kodagu.

**Sleepless nights to villagers**

The tiger captured near Bandipur used to kill cattle heads at Kadabur, Chirakanahalli, Kundakere and Omkar Colony bordering Bandipur Tiger Reserve. The feline had killed more than 17 cows and numerous sheep since a month and had given sleepless nights to villagers who were afraid to step out of their houses even during day time.

On Monday afternoon, five tamed elephants including Dasara elephant Abhimanyu and Krishna from Mathigodu Elephant Camp and Jayaprakash, Parthasarathi and Ganesh from Ramapura Elephant Camp began their operation to trace the elusive tiger and traced it in a bush where it had killed a sheep earlier.

**Tranquiliser dart fired**

As soon as the tiger saw Abhimanyu, it fled to a nearby banana plantation belonging to one Parameshwarappa near Kundakere. The Forest staff, who followed the tiger on elephants, surrounded the banana plantation and the Forest staff fired tranquiliser dart on the tiger but the tiger disappeared into thickets.

*The tiger that was captured by the Forest Department near Bandipur yesterday morning.*

Though the Forest staff searched for the tiger they were unable to locate it and as it had become dark, the search operation was suspended in the evening. Resuming the search operation on Tuesday morning, the Forest staff at about 9 am, noticed pug marks of the tiger and found the feline hiding in Parameshwarappa's field.

Soon, Veterinarian Dr. Nagaraju tranquilised the tiger which rendered it unconscious. The Forest staff then wrapped the tiger in a net and took it away. Bandipur Project Tiger Director T. Balachandra said that the tiger had wounds on its leg and was unable to hunt and as such was looking for an easy prey. It would be let free into the forest after providing treatment, he said.

Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACFs) M.S. Ravikumar and K. Paramesh and other Forest personnel took part in the operation.

**Tiger netted in South Kodagu**

In another tiger operation at Srimangala in South Kodagu, Forest Department personnel have been successful in capturing a tiger that was terrorising some of the villages in South Kodagu.

Earlier this month, the tiger was spotted inside a coffee estate near Balele and was also sighted near a coffee estate at Rajapura village. Fear had gripped residents of villages situated on the periphery of the Nagarahole National Park after many cattle heads were killed by tigers in Virajpet Taluk.

Villages on the fringes of Bramhagiri Wildlife Sanctuary and Nagarahole National Park like Birunani, Beeruga, Ponnampet, Hudikeri, Harihara, Haisudlur, Bellur, Nalkeri, Kumatoor, Balele, Kottageri, Nittur, Karmad, Nallur, Mayamudi, Dhanugala, Siddapura, Valnoor and other areas have been affected and cattle killings have been reported.

**Menace since 4 months**

Since the last three to four months, more than 75 cattle were killed and residents had recovered half-eaten carcasses in their fields and coffee estates or near cattle sheds. Following many complaints, the Forest Department finally acted. The tiger was captured at 2 am today and Dr. Sanath Krishna Muliya headed the task.

A few days back, the tiger had attacked a Jersey cow belonging to Kallengada Dinesh Devaiah and the feline was spotted by Dinesh crouching 5 feet away from the cow's carcass. Dinesh had fled the spot fearing for his life. After many representations to Forest Department and protests by villagers, the green signal was given to capture it.

**Department blamed for inaction**

However, villagers of South Kodagu said that there are two or three tigers on the prowl in South Kodagu and the Forest Department was doing nothing except clicking photos of cattle carcasses half-eaten by the tigers. These villages are not close by for a single tiger to roam around in all areas. They are at least 8 to 9 kilometres away, they argue, justifying the presence of more than one big cat.

In-charge Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Konerira Roshni, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Sripathi, Range Forest Officer (RFO) Aramanamada Theertha and Kushalnagar Deputy Range Forest Officer (DRFO) Kannanda Ranjan Devaiah led the team of Forest staff and were successful in capturing the tiger. The tiger has been rehabilitated at Koorgalli Rehabilitation Centre of Mysuru Zoo on the outskirts of Mysuru.

*The tiger that was captured at Srimangala in South Kodagu in the wee hours of today.*

# MLA S.R. Mahesh demands probe into MyMUL recruitment scam

Mysuru, May 20 (RKB&DM)- Continuing his attack on the alleged MyMUL (Mysuru Milk Union Limited) recruitment scam involving crores of rupees, K.R.Nagar JD(S) MLA S.R. Mahesh has demanded a thorough probe to expose all those involved in the scam in which some MyMUL Directors have demanded lakhs of rupees from prospective candidates for appointment to various posts in the Milk Body.

Addressing his second press meet on the issue in a week, at his office near Ramavilas Road here this morning, Mahesh, also

a former Minister, asserted that he would take the MyMUL recruitment scam to its logical end.

Claiming that some MyMUL Directors have filed a caveat in the High Court as a pre-emptive measure to stop ordering of a probe into the huge scam, Mahesh said that his only intention is to render justice to deserving candidates and nothing else.

He further said that he had released three audio conversations in support of his allegations at his previous press meet, which is enough proof for the huge corruption involved.

Chaitra, a native of Hassan District and a candidate for one of the MyMUL posts, who has chiefly featured in the audio conversations released by Mahesh, also addressed the press meet and alleged that some of the MyMUL Directors have been demanding a bribe of more than Rs.20 lakh for jobs having a monthly salary of Rs.25,000. Also she has learnt that some of the candidates who were guaranteed jobs after payment of bribe, have already started working in MyMUL.

Claiming that she was also demanded a huge bribe, she wanted scrapping of the ongoing recruitment process and said that the authorities should order a fresh one that is totally transparent. Urging the Government to render justice to candidates, she displayed a CD, which she said contains more details of the scam and also the persons involved.

T. Narasipur MLA M. Ashwinkumar, former Corporator K.V. Mallesh, former ZP President Dwarakish, local JD(S) leaders Anjali Ramu, Prakash, Vivekananda, N.N. Ramu and others were present at the press meet.

# On second day, Mysuru KSRTC sees less passenger footfall

Mysuru, May 20 (RK&DM)- KSRTC buses in the city witnessed little improvement in the number of passengers on the second day of resumption of KSRTC services following the relaxation in COVID-19 lockdown 4.0 regulations.

On the first day yesterday, the KSRTC Mysuru City Division operated a total of 69 buses on different routes. Today, 57 buses had plied till 1pm, with an average occupancy of 15 passengers per bus.

In respect of Mofussil services, the KSRTC Mysuru Rural Division operated a total of 156 buses yesterday. Today, the Division plied 178 buses from the sub-urban bus stand till noon and this number may go up to 250 by the end of the day (7 pm).

On Tuesday, the Division recorded fare collection of Rs.2.5 lakh in total from all its seven depots in the district, which is very less as compared to the average collection of about Rs. 82 lakh in the pre-lockdown days.

KSRTC authorities said that there is more outward bound passengers from Mysuru and less number of inbound passengers, as people stuck in Mysuru due to the lockdown are eager to return to their native places.

*Passengers displaying bus tickets with messages on fight against Coronavirus and Social Distancing.*

# No takers for Autos and Taxis

*Syed Asif* *Zakir Hussain* *Sagar* *Manukumar*

Mysuru, May 20 (YDS&DM)- On the first day after the Government permitted resumption of public transport in the State with a set of conditions, Autos, Taxis and Maxicabs saw poor response from the public in the city on Tuesday, with hardly a few passengers hiring them.

Before the lockdown, Auto and Taxi drivers used to earn Rs.400 per day on an average every day, which was just sufficient for them for their livelihood. But the COVID-19 induced lockdown had forced them to stay indoors and with loss of income, they were a worried lot. Now, nearly two months after the lockdown, the Government on Monday announced resumption of passenger transport with a set of conditions, which was welcomed by auto and cab drivers and all other stakeholders. But their delight seems to have shortlived, as they received poor response from the public on Tuesday, the first day. As such, the auto drivers are clueless on whether they will regain their earnings like in the pre-lockdown days.

Manukumar, an Uber auto driver, told *Star of Mysore* that he went to the sub-urban bus stand as early at 5 am yesterday expecting a good response from the public. But, his hopes were dashed as he could get only a lone passenger all through the day and could save only Rs.50 for his family after spending Rs.40 on food. Expressing concern on his livelihood if the same trend of lukewarm public response continues for a couple of months, Manukumar said that he is only hoping that the situation improves.

Sagar, a OLA Auto driver said that he faced difficulties in running his family with loss of income for the past two months. But the passengers seem to be reluctant to board autos and cabs, which is a cause of worry for them. "On the entire day yesterday, I got a single passenger, who paid a hire of Rs.50. This situation is deeply worrying and auto drivers have to face more trouble if passengers continue to show reluctance to board Autos", he said.

Zakir Hussain, a Taxi driver, said that the authorities have given permission to Taxis for operating only within the district, which is not helpful for taxi drivers. Most people hire taxis for faraway destinations and as such, the Government should remove inter-district travel restrictions and allow Taxis to operate throughout the State.

Another Taxi driver Syed Asif said that although he waited throughout the day, he failed to get even a single trip on hire. Wondering what the future of taxi drivers would be, he said he was all the more worried as he has to pay vehicle Insurance and Road Tax in about two months.

Noting that travel pass is necessary to even go to close by destinations such as Srirangapatna, which is in neighbouring Mandya district, he said that the Government should issue passes that is valid for travel throughout the State.

# Reid and Taylor terminates over 1,400 employees

Nanjangud, May 20 (RS & BCT)- Reid and Taylor factory at Tandavapura near Nanjangud has terminated the services of 1,400 of its employees as part of liquidation. All revival options have failed and after many hearings in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), the debt-hit fashion major has been liquidated.

Ravi Shankar Devarakonda, who was appointed as liquidator as per the orders of NCLAT on February 5, 2019, to liquidate Reid and Taylor as per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, has written a letter to this effect, to the employees on May 14.

"I have made the best possible efforts to run the Company as a going concern for over 14 months since the commencement of liquidation but regret to inform that now I have no other option than to discontinue the business operations," Ravi Shankar Devarakonda stated in a letter sent to all employees.

The liquidator has stated that the problems, such as discontinuation of job work by RNT Distributors Private Limited, no fresh sales orders, continuation of loss at EDITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) level, discontinuation of power supply due to non-payment of dues and lack of working capital as the causes for the layoff of the employees.

Reid and Taylor India Limited is a subsidiary of S. Kumar's Nationwide Limited (SKNL). Reid and Taylor is a British brand for over 190 years, founded by Alexander Reid, a Scott, in the 1830s. He used Scottish Cheviot wool to create Cheviot cloth. As his clientele and reputation grew, he was joined by financier Joseph Taylor. It was launched by SKNL in India in 1998.

Promoted by SKNL textile tycoon, Nitin S. Kasliwal, Reid & Taylor once boasted of top-notch brand ambassadors such as Hollywood's Pierce Brosnan and Bollywood's Amitabh Bachchan. Since 1999, the company operated a modern plant and machinery at Tandavapura from where it produced its famous men's apparels ranging from formal to casuals, but after the financial crisis hit a few years ago, it continued with truncated operations.

# Fitness test for Cops recruitment: Provisional list of candidates out

Mysuru, May 20- The provisional list of candidates, who are successful in the Physical Fitness test conducted for recruitment of Civil and DAR (District armed Reserve) Constables in the district, has been put up on the Notice Board at the Office of the Superintendent of Police (SP), Mysuru.

The Fitness test was held for candidates who got qualified in the written test conducted for appointment of 60 men and 16 women Constables (Civil) and 50 DAR Constables.

# Salons, beauty parlours open

(Continued from page 1)

Salons have decided to pass on the expenses for the safety measures on to the customers to dodge the additional costs. A hair cutting will cost Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 more from now due to the costs of sanitisers and protective equipment. Provision of hand washing/sanitisers for the employees and customers have been made at every step.

"We have begun using disposable body covers and chair covers for each customer and sanitisation of equipment after each service. These would require additional investment, which the community members can't afford and the customers are bound to foot the charges," he said. "We are taking measures to ensure the safety of our team and guests at every level. Our experts wear masks for every service, sanitisers are being provided at all beauty parlours and trainers and experts use sanitiser in front of the customer before every service. Every tool required for cutting and styling is sterilised before and after use and we are ensuring deep cleaning of all parlours," explained Veda Rai, President of Mysuru Beauty Parlours Association.

# SSLC exam: Migrant students can select centre of their choice

Mysuru, May 20- With the KSEEB (Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board) announcing the time-table for the SSLC Exams 2019-20, the Board Director V. Sumangala has directed all school Head Masters to register any changes in the choice of centre by students, in the Board website before May 25.

As children of migrant workers who have returned to their native place following the COVID-19 lockdown cannot come back and write the exams at the centres already mentioned in their Hall tickets, the Government has given a choice for such students to select the centre that is nearest to the place of their current stay.

Also students staying in Hostels and Ashram schools have vacated after the buildings were turned into quarantine facilities. These students too have been given the opportunity to choose their centre, which is closest to their place of stay.

The School Head Masters have been asked to contact such students and get confirmation on the new centres they have chosen and mention the same in the Board website [kseeb.kar.nic.in] before May 25.

# Public throng to savour chaats as roadside eateries open in city

Mysuru, May 20 (RK&KS)- Mysureans thronged various roadside shops to savour chaats such as Gobi Manchurian, Pani Puri, Masala Puri, Bhel Puri etc. as the road side eateries and chaat centres that were closed for two months following lockdown resumed business yesterday.

The residents of city, who had stayed put in their houses consuming home-cooked food began to throng the chaat centres along with their children to tickle their taste buds as they were bored of eating home food. As hotels and restaurants provided only parcel service, huge crowds were witnessed at various chaat centres across the city.

The residents, wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing, were seen waiting for their turn at the chaat centres since 3 pm. As lockdown is in force from 7 pm to 7 am, the Police were seen moving around the city and asking roadside eateries to close the shops.

# Only 50 guests for weddings

(Continued from page 1)

"All persons shall wear face mask compulsorily. All persons shall maintain a physical distance of more than one metre. Hand wash with soap and water shall be provided in washrooms," adds the advisory.

Apart from this, the venue shall be "clean and hygienic," and a "nodal person shall be identified for overseeing the arrangements and coordination at the venue." Also, a list of attendees with contact details has to be maintained and all guests should have downloaded Aarogya Setu app.

The advisory comes amid nationwide lockdown imposed as a precautionary measure to contain the spread of COVID-19.

HOUSE FOR LEASE
Two Bedroom first floor House in 30x40 dimension is for lease in Vijayanagar 2nd stage, near St.Joseph Central School and JSS High School Very good Prime location. Rs. 17 lakhs slightly Negotiable.
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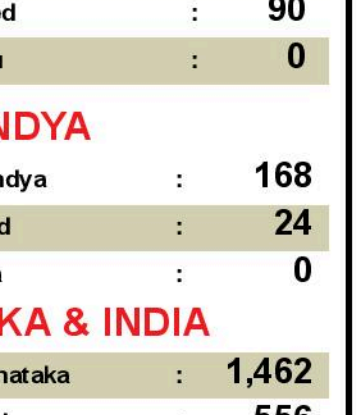



## COVID - 19 UPDATE

### MYSURU

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Persons observed till date | : | 5,505 |
| Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation | : | 4,774 |
| Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers) | : | 730 |
| Persons isolated in hospital for active cases | : | 1 |
| Total samples tested | : | 6,505 |
| Samples found negative | : | 6,414 |
| Samples found positive (cumulative) | : | 91 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 90 |
| Death toll so far in Mysuru | : | 0 |

### MANDYA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total positive cases in Mandya | : | 168 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 24 |
| Death toll so far in Mandya | : | 0 |

### KARNATAKA & INDIA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total positive cases in Karnataka | : | 1,462 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 556 |
| Death toll so far in Karnataka | : | 41 |
| Total active cases in India | : | 61,149 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 42,297 |
| Death toll so far in India | : | 3,303 |

(Note: Mysuru figures as on May 19. Media bulletin for May 20 not available)

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